



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

# News Release

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## **FORMER IMAM OF LODI MOSQUE DEPORTED TO PAKISTAN**

SAN FRANCISCO – U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) announced today that the former imam of the Lodi mosque who was arrested in June on immigration violations has been removed from the United States and returned to Pakistan.

ICE officials say the removal of Shabbir Ahmed, 38, was completed overnight with his arrival in Pakistan on board a commercial flight escorted by ICE officers. The cleric's deportation follows an August 15 immigration hearing where he advised Immigration Judge Anthony Murry that he was abandoning his legal fight to remain in the United States and would accept an order of removal to Pakistan. ICE agents took Ahmed into custody June 6 for violating the terms of his visa.

"With Mr. Ahmed's removal from the United States, ICE has once again fulfilled its mission to protect our country," said Ronald E. Le Fevre, San Francisco ICE chief counsel. "His removal sends a strong message that ICE will continue to use every tool at its disposal to preserve the integrity of our immigration system and prevent foreign nationals from conducting activities within our borders that pose a threat to this country."

During Ahmed's immigration proceedings, ICE attorneys presented evidence tying the Lodi cleric to the Taliban and Al Qaeda. That evidence included a diagram showing the relationship between Ahmed and several other Lodi-area men who have been taken into custody by federal authorities.

One of those individuals, Imam Mohammad Adil Khan, was arrested by ICE on immigration violations and removed to Pakistan last month. Two other men, Umer Hayat, and his son, Hamid Hayat, have been indicted on criminal charges.

According to ICE attorneys, Ahmed's long-term goal was to establish a madrassah or religious school in Lodi similar to the madrassah in Rawalpindi, Pakistan where he and Khan previously worked. Evidence presented during the proceeding showed that this madrassah has been used to recruit individuals to engage in jihad.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*